

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-37. (Canceled.)

38. (New.) An add/drop apparatus, comprising:

a channel selector configured to receive a plurality of channels that include a first channel and a second channel, the channel selector being configured to transmit the first channel to an add/drop node and the second channel to an output node when in a first channel mode and being further configured to transmit the second channel to the add/drop node and the first channel to the output node when in a second channel mode; and

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a switch configured to receive a plurality of optical channels and to direct the optical channels such that the optical channels are received by the channel selector or such that the optical channels bypass the channel selector and are received at the output node, an optical path along which the channels travels from the switch to the channel selector being exclusive of an optical path from the channel selector to the add/drop node and also exclusive of an optical path from the channel selector to the output node.

39. (New.) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the channel selector is configured such that a bandwidth of a channel directed to the add/drop node can be tuned.

40. (New.) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the channel selector includes a bandwidth tunable filter module comprising:

a first optical filter element configured to divert a channel from a beam that includes a plurality of the channels, the first portion having a first bandwidth; and

a second optical filter element configured to divert the channel from the beam such that the channel has a second bandwidth, that second bandwidth being different from the first bandwidth.

41. (New.) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the first optical filter element is arranged to move in conjunction with the second filter element.

42. (New.) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:
an adjustment mechanism configured to position the first and the second optical filter element relative to the beam in accordance with a desired optical bandwidth of a diverted signal.

43. (New.) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the adjustment mechanism is further configured to position the first and the second optical filter element relative to the light signal such that the channel selector transmits the desired channel to the add/drop node.

45. (New.) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising:
a controller configured to operate the switch such that channels are directed to the output port when changing the apparatus between the first channel mode and the second channel mode.

46. (New.) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein:
the channel selector is configured such that a first alternate optical channel traveling from the add/drop node to the channel selector travels from the channel selector to the output node when the channel selector is in the first channel mode.

47. (New.) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein:
the channel selector is configured such that when in the first channel mode, the first alternate channel is directed to the output node with a different bandwidth than the first channel directed to the add/drop node.

48. (New.) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising:
one or more second channel selectors configured to receive channels from the switch, each of the second channel selectors configured to transmit one or more of the channels to the add/drop node.

49. (New.) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein one or more of the channel selectors is a fixed channel selector.

50. (New.) The apparatus of claim 48, further comprising:
an optical channel coupler configured to receive channels from the channel selector and from the one or more second channel selectors and to direct the received channels to the output port.

51. (New.) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the channel selector is configured to transmit a plurality of channels to an add/drop when in the first channel mode.

52. (New.) A method for operating an add/drop apparatus, comprising:
directing a plurality of optical channels from an optical switch to a channel selector, the channel selector being configured to direct a portion of the optical channels to an output node;
operating the switch such that the optical channels are directed from the switch to an output node along an optical path that bypasses the channel selector, the switch being operated after directing the plurality of optical channels from the switch to the channel selector;
tuning the channel selector so as to change the portion of the optical channels directed from the channel selector to the add/drop node, the channel selector being tuned after operating the switch; and
operating the switch such that the plurality of channels are directed from the switch to the channel selector after tuning the channel selector.
